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1.   (Amended) Apparatus for [summarising] summarizing data sets, the

apparatus comprising [having]:

an input for receiving a data set to be summarized [summarised];

sectioning means for dividing said received data set into [one or more] plural

sections according to pre-determined criteria;

ranking means operable for each said section to compare data within the said

section with one or more target data items and for calculating a ranking value for the said

section, said ranking value being dependent on the outcome of said comparisons for the

said section; and

selecting means for compiling a [customised] customized summary of the data set

by selecting one or more of said one or more sections according to their respective

ranking values.

2.   (Amended) Apparatus [according to] as in Claim 1, including a user input

for entering target data items.

3.   (Twice Amended) Apparatus [according to] as in Claim 1 further

including:

means for identifying one or more key data items in each said section according to

a pre-determined stop list;

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calculating means operable for each said section to calculate one or more distribution values, each said distribution value representing a different pre-determined measure of the distribution, in said data set, of key data items identified in the said section; and

adjustment means for adjusting said ranking value for each said section according to the respective said one or more distribution values.

4.   (Amended) Apparatus [according to] as in Claim 3, wherein:

said calculating means are operable to calculate a first distribution value for each said section,

said first distribution value representing a measure of the number of sections of said data set, other than the said section, containing key data items of the said section,

said first distribution value, as calculated for the said section, being proportional to the sum of the values of said measure of the number of sections determined for each key data item of the said section.

5.   (Twice Amended) Apparatus [according to] as in Claim 3, wherein:

said calculating means are operable to calculate a second distribution value for each said section,

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said second distribution value representing a measure of the separation between the first occurrence within said data set of each key data item of the said section and the respective last occurrence,

said second distribution value, as calculated for the said section, being proportional to the sum of the values of said measure of separation determined for each key data item of the said section.

8. (Twice Amended) Apparatus [according to] as in claim 1, wherein:

said selecting means are arranged to compile a summary having a pre-defined length by selecting, in order of decreasing rank, as determined by the corresponding ranking value, one or more of said one or more sections, beginning with the highest ranked section, and adding each selected section to the summary until the summary has attained said pre-defined length.

9. (Amended) A method for generating a customised summary of a data set, the method comprising [including the steps of]:

i)   receiving, as input, a data set to be summarized [summarised];

ii)   dividing said data set into sections according to predetermined criteria;

iii)   comparing data items in each said section against one or more target data items;

iv) calculating a ranking value for each said section in dependence upon the outcome of the respective said comparisons; and

v) compiling a [customised] customized summary of said data set by selecting one or more of said one or more sections according to their respective ranking values.

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8. (Amended) A method [according to] as in Claim 9 [7] further comprising [including the steps of]:

a) identifying key data items within each said section from step ii) according to a pre-determined stop list;

b) calculating, for each said section, one or more distribution values each representing a pre-determined measure of the distribution of the key data items of the said section in said data set; and

c) adjusting said ranking value form step iv) for each said section in dependence upon the respective said one or more distribution values.

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(Amended) A method [according to] as in Claim 3, wherein:

at step b), said one or more pre-determined measures of distribution include a measure of the number of sections of said data set, other than the said section, containing key data items of the said section; and [wherein]

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the corresponding distribution value, as calculated for the said section, is proportional to the sum of the values of said measure of the number of sections determined for each key data item of the said section.

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10. (Twice Amended) A method [according to] as in Claim 8 wherein:

at step b), said one or more pre-determined measures of distribution include a measure of the separation between the first occurrence within said data set of each key data item of the said section and the respective last occurrence; and [wherein]

the corresponding distribution value, as calculated for the said section, is proportional to the sum of the values of said measure of separation determined for each key data item of the said section.

Add new claims 11-13:

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--11. Apparatus as in claim 4 wherein:

said calculating means are operable to calculate a second distribution value for each said section,

said second distribution value representing a measure of the separation between the first occurrence within said data set of each key data item of the said section and the respective last occurrence,

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said second distribution value, as calculated for the said section, being

proportional to the sum of the values of said measure of separation determined for each

key data item of the said section.

12. Apparatus as in claim 11, wherein:

said selecting means are arranged to compile a summary having a pre-defined

length by selecting, in order of decreasing rank, as determined by the corresponding

ranking value, one or more of said one or more sections, beginning with the highest

ranked section, and adding each selected section to the summary until the summary has

attained said pre-defined length.

13. A method as in claim 9 wherein:

at step b), said one or more pre-determined measures of distribution include a

measure of the separation between the first occurrence within said data set of each key

data item of the said section and the respective last occurrence; and

the corresponding distribution value, as calculated for the said section, is

proportional to the sum of the values of said measure of separation determined for each

key data item of the said section.--

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